

April 22, 1932.

Mr. B. O. Colton, Jr.,
Roosevelt, Utah.

Dear Sir:

RE: UINTAH DIST.

In accordance with the request of the Executive Committee, representing the settler water users on Lake Fork and Uintah Rivers, I am herewith appointing you as commissioner on said rivers to distribute the waters thereof in accordance with the respective rights.

Contained in this request is a statement as to compensation and expenses to be allowed and also certain recommendations as to duties to be performed. I assume that the Executive Committee has furnished you with a copy of this request but if not kindly advise me at once.

In making this appointment under conditions which are not wholly satisfactory in that there is no assurance of cooperation with the Indian Service I wish it distinctly understood that this office considers that it has no power or authority in the determination of rights and priorities. Its function is purely administrative, calling merely for the distribution of rights as the same may be of record. I am sure that you realize fully the advantage to all concerned from a tactful handling of the present situation.

I have not given up hope that the Indian Service will acquiesce in a reasonable cooperation but it is necessary to advise you at the outset that I have no reason to count on the payment by the Indian Service of its pro rata of your compensation and expense. I assume that this question will be resolved within a few weeks and if it is definitely learned that the Indian Service will not pay its share it is understood that my responsibility for the collection thereof and payment to you does not go beyond reasonable and proper efforts to make such collection.

Mr. B. O. Colton, Jr. - #2.

In accordance with the general practice I shall make no attempt to distribute the waters from this office and it is in turn not only the right but the duty of both the commissioner and the water users to advise me of any difficulties or differences which this office should properly adjust.

Yours very truly,

State Engineer.

GMB/E
Encl.